

UMS student spends semester break at relief centre

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PAPAR: This semester break turned into an unexpected experience for a Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) student, who, for the first time, found herself sheltering at a temporary relief centre (PPS) after her family home in Kampung Kinarut Tengah, near here, was inundated by floods following continuous heavy rain since last Saturday.

Nurul Izzati Ridzwan, 18, said her family decided to take shelter at the PPS at Dewan Lok Kawi Height after seeing the flooding situation at their home getting worse and fearing for their safety.

"I'm on semester break from

UMS and didn't expect the flooding at home to be this bad. Our house has been flooded before, but never as badly as Monday.

"At first, we thought of evacuating to the mosque, but the water rose so quickly that it too was flooded. We had no choice but to come here because the PPS is safer," she told Bernama at the PPS on Tuesday.

As of noon on Tuesday, a total of 224 people from 65 families in Papar have been evacuated to four PPS that were opened to house flood and landslide victims in the district.

At the PPS at Dewan Lok Kawi Height Hall, which opened at

5 pm on Monday, there are 82 people from 25 families.

Nurul Izzati praised the swift and efficient response of the rescue teams who assisted residents in relocating to the PPS.

For trader Mohd Nur Suffian Mohd Yusof, 43, safety was his main concern when he decided to move to the PPS with his wife and three children, aged between three and 16.

"When I saw the floodwater reach waist level, I knew we had to leave. We've faced floods before, but this is the first time we've had to move to a PPS. We followed the advice of the authorities because we wanted to

ensure the children's safety," said Mohd Nur Suffian, of Kampung Seri Menanti, Kinarut.

Meanwhile, Minister of Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali, who is Papar Member of Parliament, said priority was being given to sending food supplies to residents cut off by the floods.

"Those affected by floods and at risk of landslides are being immediately evacuated to the PPS in Papar," he said. He also urged residents not to wait until the last minute to move, especially those living in hillside areas vulnerable to landslides if heavy rain persists. — Bernama